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Newsletter

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Phone / Fax (09) 433 5823 Email – admin@matarau.school.nz



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Newsletters (Keeping Informed)

Please ask for these each Friday ... remember, copies of our newsletter are also available via our website.

Thanks

... to those who have already paid school contributions and organised their children's stationery.

... to Craig Walker for removal of the shelter belt adjoining the school pool.

... to those who have offered to assist with headlice inspections (16.2) or swimming trials (15.2) .. would love a few more offers!

People of the Week

... those junior children who have been brave enough this week to put their heads under the water for the first time.

... Police Education Officer Toni Bean for her efforts in classrooms supporting the Keeping Ourselves Safe programme.

Term calendar ... More to follow as dates come to hand!

15 Feb	Swimming trials
19 Feb	Movie Night, School Hall, 6-7pm start
22/23 Feb	Parent / teacher / student conferences
25 Feb	Zone Swimming Sports - Kokopu School
4 March	School Swimming Sports (years 4 to 8)
8 March	Interschool Swimming Sports
10 March	Junior Swimming Sports (years 1 to 3)
17 March	Year 7 and 8 vaccinations
21-24 March	Year 5 and 6 camp to Russell
22 March	Middle School Summer Sports Tournament (year 4 only)
4 April	Hockey coaching sessions start
5 April	Mighty Maui Puppet Show
14 April	Snow White Show
15 April	Final day for term 1

It is really important that you return the medical / contact details form sent home last week .. even if your details are unchanged.

If you formerly resided out of zone, and are now residing in zone, we are particularly keen to hear from you. In zone children generate more funding .. which means more and better resources for students. So please let us know next week if your children were balloted in through the Out of Zone process initially and you have moved into our school zone since then.

Triadic Conferences (parent / teacher / student interviews)

The above are scheduled for 22 and 23 February. Parents are encouraged to attend these interviews with their child or to make an alternative appointment if these days do not suit. Conferences are an opportunity to talk about your child specifically, to see how they have settled, to note any concerns, and to set some targets. This is a chance for you and your child (optional for year 1 children) to be heard and to hear some first impressions of how their year is unfolding.

To book your appointment visit www.schoolinterviews.co.nz and enter the code 4Z27F

If unable to make an online booking please contact the school office and Helen will book for you.

Reminders from last week

- ... to advise the office by 9:00am if your child is absent (state reason for absence as we need to code these)
- ... arrival time 10 - 15 minutes before bell help children to get settled and organised for the day.
- ... if dropping children off in the upper car park please note the newly designated drop off zone. Please do not park in the zone and move on as quickly as you safely can.
- ... please ensure children have stationery by the beginning of next week.
- ... sunhats are compulsory in the summer terms. Please check your child's bag each day to ensure they have packed their sunhat.
- ... please send swimming gear to school each day.
- ... Keeping Ourselves Safe ... questions please to your child's teacher
- ... please check bedrooms, under beds etc for school books, especially junior readers.
- ... if your child will not be on their customary bus, or if they will be picked up by someone other than you, please advise the school office not later than 2:45pm
- ... out of fairness to other families the board requests that all families pay their school contributions if possible. **If feeling financially stretched at the moment parents are welcome to contact Kevin to discuss alternative payment arrangements. You will find us accommodating and discreet.**

Cambridge Lower Secondary Programme

Printed material is available in the office foyer for those keen to know more about this programme and how it will benefit our students. Just ask.

Learning Support Programme

If your child is selected for placement in one of Mrs Comrie's or Mrs Gunson's support programmes please return consent forms as soon as possible. This is a valuable opportunity for a more personalized and intensive learning programme, in an area of need, and parental support with assigned homework tasks is expected.

Korean language Lessons ... STILL SOME SPACES !!!

Last year quite a number of parents indicated that they were keen for their children to participate in Korean language lessons this year. We are pleased to advise that the Korean Consulate has approved our funding application. Lessons will take place each Tuesday (starting 1 March) from 11:00 AM in blocks of around 30-40 minutes (depending on concentration spans). Children will be in small groups with similar aged children. Parents who indicated interest received a letter last week requesting authorisation for withdrawal from regular class. **Other interested parents are asked to contact Kevin early next week (phone or email .. principal@matarau.school.nz) so we can add you to our list.** Senior students will have the option of Korean lessons in the afternoons as part of their wider options programme.

Early Buses - early notice that buses will run 30 minutes early on 22 and 23 February due to parent interviews. Parents who transport their children by car are asked to pick them up at 2.30 PM please on these days.

Term Headlice Inspection

... is scheduled for the morning of Tuesday 16 February. We need extra help and so, if you can spare a couple of hours please phone Helen on Monday.

National Standards Results

Our National Standards results are available for anyone interested in viewing these. If you would like a copy please drop by to see Kevin or flick him an email..

Swimming Trials

If able to assist with the timing of swimmers on **15 February** please flick Kevin an email over the weekend. These trials help ensure correct selection of swimmers for zone & interschool events & assist us to place children in heats for our school swimming sports. We would love your help with this and are keen for a few more helpers.



Parents of year 3 children who would like their children to participate in the competitive races at our school swimming sports (as opposed to the usual junior water confidence activities) are asked to advise their child's teacher early next week - we will then include these children in the time trials.

Zone Swimming Sports - Kokopu School - 25 February

Consents for this event (years 4 to 8) will be sent home on Wednesday for return by Friday please. **Due to the sheer numbers now attending Matarau School, and the capacity of Kokopu to cope with these numbers, only those children entering a minimum of 2 races, able to swim 2 laps confidently (correct stroke), or our six fastest swimmers in the one length races, will be invited to attend. If you do not receive a consent, and you would like your child to participate in this event (and you can put a good case), please contact Katie or Simon next week.**

Parents are asked to ensure please that children bring their lunches, plenty to drink, sunhats (and sun safe clothing), sunblock, something warm to wear between races, and spending money at your discretion. Please ensure that children who travel by bus also return to school by bus - unless otherwise arranged with the attending teachers. If weather is doubtful on the morning please check our phone bulletin board for updates. (Children who qualify at the zone event will be invited to participate in the Interschool Swimming Championships - more to follow)

Pool Keys

The pool will be available for public use. Hire keys are available from the school office at \$30 per family for the 2016 swimming season. If you have a key from last year it is important that you return this as soon as possible. Last year's keys will not work on the lock in 2016. No fence jumping please.

POOL - IMPORTANT SAFETY MESSAGE

Pool users are reminded of the critical importance of locking the pool gate when they leave. On a number of recent occasions the gate has been found unlocked. This presents a significant potential danger.

Users are also reminded that children in the pool compound must be supervised by an adult at all times.

Parent Helpers

We well know the difference that can be made through the involvement of parent helpers. If you can commit some regular time to a classroom (or some other area of the school) please make contact with your child's teacher or drop by to the office. Please give me a call if you wish to further discuss your involvement.

Medical Forms/Address/Contact Details

On enrolment parents provide important details on contacts / custody issues / medical conditions / medications etc. Please continue throughout the year to keep us informed so that we can properly discharge our duty of care to your child(ren).

Medications

Medications should be held at, and administered from, the school office. **Where we currently hold medication for your child please call by the office within the next 2 weeks to check expiry dates and arrange replacement where necessary.**



Inhalers

Please note that inhalers (and in fact all medications) must be kept in the school office and not in children's bags. This way we can monitor and record usage and advise you of any concerns. So ... if your child needs an inhaler (or medication), please drop this medication (named clearly) in to the school office next week.

Creating optimal conditions for learning (just a reminder)

An increasing body of educational research is suggesting that some of the biggest improvements in learning can result from simple things like ..

- .. **drinking plenty of water.** Parents are asked to ensure children bring a water bottle to school each day. A reminder that water is preferable to sugar based drinks. We will encourage them to have their water bottle on their desks at all times during the day (a good idea when you consider the brain is 90% water).
- ... **a good nights sleep.** A target bedtime of 8:00 PM (or earlier) is suggested for all children.
- .. **a suitable breakfast and healthy lunch.** With food as close as possible to its natural form.
- .. don't forget to **show an interest** in what your child is doing at school. Share mealtimes with them if possible and don't let them overdo the homework - we all need time to play.

Friday Lunches

A reminder that orders must be in no later than Wednesday of the week in question. Please give Helen a call if you can spend 15 minutes in the morning and/or 10 minutes around midday to help with heating and distribution of items. Thank you.

Cellphones

We realise that some parents like their children to have a cell phone on them in the event of an emergency. If your child does bring a cell phone to school please note that these must be dropped to the school office on arrival at school and picked up on departure each day. If you want to get a message to your child during the school day this should be channelled through the school office.



Homework

Home Learning is **encouraged but optional** at Matarau School. For most children this will mean 4 nights home learning a week (around 20 minutes each night) with most of this time spent on word learning, maths basic facts and reading, with one activity related to their class programme. Parents should feel free to advise their child's teacher if the load needs to be lightened for any reason or if they wish their child excused from home learning altogether. This saves tension and time wasted chasing home learning. **If you do NOT want your child to receive home learning please advise their teacher NEXT week.** If you are on board please set a regular time and place and advise us if we can help with any "speed wobbles" along the way. Let's start as we mean to continue by getting routines well established.

(Although the research is a little inconclusive we believe that regular home learning routines lead to better performance and a better preparation for secondary school for most children).

School Sponsors sought for 2016

Interested parties are invited to express an interest in becoming a school sponsor. Our sponsors provide an important link between the school and its community. While grateful for the financial contributions of sponsors our desire to foster an on-going and mutually beneficial relationship between the school and your business is our paramount consideration.

Where relevant, a sponsor will be given the opportunity to quote on school work through the Ministry of Education. This is just one of the benefits of being a sponsor.

If you are interested in becoming a school sponsor, please contact Mary Finlayson 4370441 or 0274525398.

Year 5 & 6 Camp

Initial camp parent meeting will be held in the staffroom at 7pm on Wednesday 17th February. A reminder notice will be sent home closer to the day. If you have not yet returned your permission forms please get these to the school office by Monday. If you would like to discuss time payment arrangements please contact Kevin and we can negotiate something that works for you.

Is there a chance you will be staying over at camp?

... if there is, please note that it is board policy to police vet all overnight camp parents. So, if you are staying over as a camp parent, **please bring 2 forms of ID (one photographic) to the above meeting.**

Finally

Each year the staff choose an overarching virtue (or principle) for special attention. As the year progresses we select other virtues which support and reinforce this overarching virtue. We flesh out what this overarching virtue means, how it looks in practice, and discuss how we might support each other to grow this virtue in our lives.

This year our overarching virtue (principle) is *Manaakitanga*. Literally, manaakitanga means to "care for a person's mana" (well-being, in a holistic sense). On a marae, it is often claimed that it is not what is said that matters, but how people are looked after. Many consider this is the essence of manaakitanga. We are looking forward to growing our understanding of what this means in the broader sense, but this definition will be our starting point.

We invite parents to join with staff and children in practising manaakitanga this year. We have a duty to respect, nurture, encourage and support each other (even ... perhaps even especially ... those we disagree with). Words and actions ripple ... we have a duty to consider how our words and actions safeguard the mana of others. There are endless possibilities for each of us to grow and learn together as we explore this concept. Please join us!

One more thought ... a huge thanks to Brydon Lonsdale who intercepted me on my circuit through his room this week and asked if I would read him a story. One of the best things I did all week Brydon.

Our Sponsors support your
children, please support them

Regards
Kevin Trehwella
PRINCIPAL



Guitar Lessons

If interested in your child learning guitar after school, please phone Vangie on 434 7573 or 021 1883251, or email killalea@ihug.co.nz

School Lunches



Mondays - \$3.00 : Baked Beans or Spaghetti served with toast & a juice, or Chicken or Beef Cup of Noodles & a juice. Order at the office by morning tea on Monday.

Wednesdays - \$1.50 : for Sausage (meat or vegetarian option) in bread with sauce. Order on Wednesday mornings through the classroom teacher.

Fridays - \$4.00 : Hot Mince Pie, Jumbo Sausage Roll or Sausage Roll (with Museli Bar),

butter chicken or mince & cheese wrap and a Fruit Drink. You can swap the Fruit drink for a Flavoured Milk for \$5.00. Order by Wednesday at the office, to receive Friday. See order form attached to this week's newsletter if you want to bulk order for term 1.

Community Notices

Hikurangi junior rugby registration day - Sunday 21 February 2016, 10am – 12pm

Hikurangi Clubrooms. Come on down and sign up to play rugby this season. Contact Kasey Hindrup on 021 542 426 for more details.

Making a Scene Drama and Voice Academy now has more classes over more days and is offering tuition in the following areas Drama, Musical Theatre and Communication classes From Monday -Thursday. Tuition is open to beginners and experienced students age from 7-18, visit the website to choose a class to suit your needs. www.makingascene.co.nz or ph 021 172 3568

Twilight VBall series on Tuesday evenings at 6.00pm at Whg Netball Courts, Kensington. Start date is Tuesday 16 February until Tuesday 8 March – there will be NO cancellations games played in all weather – closing date for entries Wednesday 10 February 2016. More info Ph (09) 4371950 or whangareinetball@xtra.co.nz

Active Attitude offers after school gymnastics tuition for Term 1 now. Please contact us on 9454876 or email admin@activeattitude.co.nz for further information.

Position Vacant - EGG COLLECTOR REQUIRED FOR FREE-RANGE POULTRY FARM.- PURUA

Commitment required is 16 days a month including 2 weekends, and approx 7-8 hours per day with 6.30-7 am starts. The job primarily involves packing eggs, shed checks and contact with chickens, and cleaning. Some heavy lifting is required. Preference will be given to applicants with good maths skills as counting and packing orders as well as reconciliations are part of the job. We are looking for a reliable, energetic person with good attention to detail and a healthy sense of humour. Please contact Lee McGrath, thehookfarm@xtra.co.nz

MOVIE NIGHT....



**Friday 19 February 2016
... from 6pm**

**Come and join the Matarau School Community
for a catch up after the holidays,
and meet new families for a BBQ and Movie Night.**

The BBQ will be ready from 6pm

Sausages - \$2

Popcorn - \$3 per bag

Sorry NO EFTPOS

“Where The Wild Things Are”

will be played in the school hall from 7pm.

Bring a cushion and find a spot with the family and enjoy the movie.

Tickets will cost \$20 per family (2 adults and your children)

Please purchase your tickets from the school office.

All payments to the school by 3pm on Thursday 18 February.

